Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2018–2019

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. If there is a discrepancy between the law and this summary, the law prevails. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, the description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, please refer to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and *Migratory Birds Regulations*. These, along with other useful information for hunters, can be found on the Government of Canada website (www.canada.ca), or you may contact:

Environment and Climate Change Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
9250-49 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 1K5
Tel.: 1-800-668-6767
ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca

Hunting Zones
Hunters are advised to pay particular attention to the Alberta Hunting Guide to ensure that they are hunting for the correct species in the correct wildlife management unit during the permitted times and dates. Note that these zone numbers do not correspond to regions as presented in the Guide.

If you need more information to determine in which zone you are located, please visit: www.albertaregulations.ca/huntingregs/season-wmus.html.

You are required to possess a valid federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit with a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds in Canada. This permit and stamp are valid in all provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.

The Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit is now available online on the Government of Canada website (www.canada.ca). Purchase and print your permit from the comfort of home.

Consultation Process and Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports

The hunting provisions of the *Migratory Birds Regulations* are reviewed by Environment and Climate Change Canada, with input from the provinces and territories, as well as a range of other interested stakeholders. Environment and Climate Change Canada has developed a consultation process for establishing hunting regulations for migratory birds, and publishes the Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Series that can be found on the Government of Canada website (www.canada.ca).

Enforcement Tool, Fine Regime, and Sentencing Provisions

In June 2017, the *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties Regulations* came into force and administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) are now available to game officers to enforce designated violations of the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* (MBCA) and its associated regulations. In addition, amendments to the fine regime and sentencing provisions of the MBCA and the regulations necessary to complete the fine regime, the *Designation of Regulatory Provisions for the Purposes of Enforcement (Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994) Regulations*, came into force on July 12, 2017. The amendments aim to ensure that court-imposed fines more accurately reflect the seriousness of environmental offenses. The new fine regime will be applied by courts following a conviction pursuant to the MBCA or its associated regulations. Under the new fine regime, when a contravention of a designated provision occurs, the offender upon conviction, is subject to minimum and higher maximum fines. For more information on AMPs and the new fine regime, please visit https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/acts-regulations/about-act/legislation-fines-offences.html.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters who are minors (under 18 years of age) with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit or the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor (who is not a minor);
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters; and
- only young hunters may hunt when Waterfowler Heritage Days fall outside of the regular open seasons.

In Alberta, **non-toxic shot must be used** to hunt migratory birds. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

OPEN SEASONS AND WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS IN ALBERTA

Area	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Open Seasons in Alberta
	Ducks, geese, coots and snipe	Ducks, geese, coots and snipe
Zones* No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8	Sept. 1 to Sept. 2, 2018 (*a*)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2018 (*a*), (*b*)
Zones* No. 5, 6 and 7	Sept. 1 to Sept. 2, 2018 (*a*)	Sept. 8 to Dec. 21, 2018 (*a*), (*c*)

* "Zone No. 1" means that part of Alberta included in Provincial Wildlife Management Units (PWMUs) 501 to 506, 509 to 512, 514 to 519, 529 to 532, and 841.
"Zone No. 2" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 344, 347, 349 to 360, 520 to 528, 534 to 537, 539 to 542, and 544.
"Zone No. 3" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 200, 202 to 204, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, and 500.
"Zone No. 4" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 206, 208, 216, 220 to 222, 224, 226, 228, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336 to 340, 342, 346, 348, 429, 507, 508, and 936.
"Zone No. 5" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 151, 160, 162 to 164, and 166.
"Zone No. 6" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 152, 156, 158, 210, 212, 214, 300, 302 to 306, 308, 310, 312, and 314.
"Zone No. 7" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 102, 116, 118, 119, 124, 144, 148, and 150.
"Zone No. 8" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 316, 318, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416 to 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436 to 442, and 444 to 446.

(*a*) Recorded Snow Goose and Ross's Goose calls may be used when hunting Snow Geese or Ross's Geese; any species of migratory bird for which it is open season may be taken while hunting Snow Geese or Ross's Geese with those calls.
(*b*) Falconry season is open from September 1 to December 16, 2018.
(*c*) Falconry season is open from September 8 to December 21, 2018.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ALBERTA

Limits	Ducks	Snow Geese and Ross's Geese	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and White-fronted Geese	Coots	Snipe
Daily bag	8 (*a*)	50	8 (*c*)	8	8
Possession	24 (*b*)	No limit	24 (*d*)	24	24

(*a*) Not more than 4 may be Northern Pintails. For non-residents of Canada, not more than 2 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye or any combination of them.
(*b*) Not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails. For non-residents of Canada, not more than 6 may be Barrow's Goldeneye or Common Goldeneye or any combination of them.
(*c*) Not more than 5 may be White-fronted Geese.
(*d*) Not more than 15 may be White-fronted Geese.

OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

The *Migratory Birds Regulations* also provide for special conservation harvest periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted during the special conservation harvest periods. See the table below for details.

MEASURES IN ALBERTA CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese and Ross's Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
Throughout Alberta	March 15 to June 15, 2019	Recorded bird calls (*a*)

(*a*) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.

NOTE

The 2018 federal permit is also valid for the 2019 spring special conservation harvest for Snow Geese and Ross's Geese.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

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